

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
REGULAR WORK SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 7:10p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Kelly Porter., Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Brian Shivers (8:10 p.m.), Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator and Kyrthlyn Rhoda, Administrative Assistant (Recording in the excused absence of Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk).

Citizens: Mr. James Wright, 500 70th St.

1.1.3 Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was accepted with the following modification:

- Addition of 6.2 - Use of the Council Chambers by the Seat Pleasant CDC.

Councilmember Hardy motioned and Councilmember Sims seconded. The motion carried.

2. PRESENTATIONS: Delegate Carolyn J. B. Howard

- She reported that Seat Pleasant will possibly be awarded an \$80,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for pavilion replacement. The grant needs to go before the County Board of Public Works for official approval.
- She informed everyone about the Prince George's County budget cuts. To date 4.3 billion has been cut and \$236 million still needs to be cut. She stated that a \$1.9 billion deficit is projected for fiscal year 2011.

- She reported that officials have been and will continue to have cuts made to their personal and working budgets as well. These cuts have taken the form of furloughs and the discontinuance of allowances for transponders/tolls for travel expenses. They will be paying a monthly transponder/toll fee whether they use the service or not.
- She stated she wants to hear and be responsive to Seat Pleasant on legislative issues that are of concern to the city. Mayor Grant stated that the city's communication with the county legislative body could be improved if they would direct the city to specific pieces of legislation that Seat Pleasant could submit letters of support or opposition for.
- She informed every one of her December 17, 2009 Prayer Breakfast and summer fish fry.
- She will visit the city again at the end of the legislative session.
- She encouraged everyone to attend the discussions on upcoming legislations that will be held at Prince George's Community College during the months of November and December.
- She gave her email address carolynjbhoward.org and to read her newsletter.

3. LEGISLATION:

None

4. REPORTS:

4.1 City Administrator- Robert Ashton (Acting)

- **Feggans Center-**Mr. Ashton has been in communications with Ms. Townsend from the Neighborhood Design Center. In view of the fact that blue prints for the Feggans Center have not been found, she wishes to work with the city to produce a new set. She would be working with the County school board to do this as well. She would be doing this at no formal charge to the city. However she would be soliciting the help of some volunteers and a small stipend may be possible. Ms. Townsend would also like to attend the City Council business session to discuss this further.
- **Seat Pleasant Civic Association Meeting-** Mr. Ashton was asked to attend this meeting to inform meeting attendees of city events, tax issues, etc. Councilmember Hardy stated he would prefer that citizens come to the public sessions to learn of city activities and give their input directly to the council. Council members Porter and Simms agreed. Mr. Wright stated that routinely the civic meeting engages two (2) speakers, one from the city and an outside

guest speaker. He added that he gives those citizens in attendance the emails and phone numbers of their representative council person. He added that his goal and challenge is to get citizens politically and government process smart.

- **Prescription Discount Card Program-** Mr. Ashton informed the council that the city could participate in the county discounted prescription drug program at a minimal rate. He distributed the flyer for future discussion.
- **Public Works Uniform Cost Analysis on Purchasing vs. Renting-** Mr. Ashton stated that currently there is no uniform contract in place. If the city chose to enter a contract all current uniforms would have to be returned first and there would be a cost for those that weren't. He and Mr. Thompson are currently reviewing vendors and alternatives.
- **Debt Policy-** Mr. Ashton reported that the city now has on file with the State Treasury a city debt policy. No charter amendment has to be done for this.

4.2 City Council Committee - None

4.2a Economic Development Housing & Planning Committee - None

4.2b Finance & Budget Committee - None

4.2c Government Affairs & Technology - None

4.2d Human Services, Health & Education Committee - None

4.2e Public Safety & Civil Rights Committee - None

4.2f Public Works & Transportation Committee - None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Approval of Agenda Revision

Council President Gatling went over the new format for the city council meeting agenda. The institution of numbering the agenda items would be utilized to promote quick reference for the council, clerk and citizens.

5.2 Council Committee Assignment

Council President Gatling stated that to promote effective governing that all issues that are presented should immediately be assigned to a committee.

Council member Hardy suggested that start and end meeting times are set and any remaining items become tabled until the next meeting. Council President Gatling stated this concept will definitely be promoted, the importance of an issue will determine whether it is tabled.

5.3 Mayor & Council Goals for Seat Pleasant

Council President Gatling stated that a set of priorities need to be instituted for the coming year. She had asked the Mayor and each council member to submit five (5) priorities so that at the end of the year they would be able to gauge completion. Council members Porter and Simms submitted five each (see attached). Council member Hardy's priority was the formal disposal of the police Cars in the Police Department cage located at Goodwin Park. Council member Raynor's Priority was to change the image of the city and promote more citizen participation in city government processes. Council member Shivers stated to develop a master plan for the city. Council President Gatling stated which should include the Feggans Center, the city codes, more legislative communications and more community involvement. Mayor Grant stated the city charter needs to be updated as well as the codes. Most importantly a long range strategic plan needs to be instituted and a master plan. He explained that these two items are totally different. A strategic plan has to do with the overall plan for the city. The master plan is a part of the strategic plan in particular economic development. He stated no plan will work efficiently until a strategic plan is put in place.

Council President Gatling asked for all priorities to be emailed to her by Tuesday, October 16, 2009. After which one document will be developed from all council input.

5.4 Ward Meetings

Council President Gatling would like ward meetings permanently set up if nothing but bi-monthly.

5.5 Council Goals for City Administrator

Council member Simms stated her initial review of the submitted City Administrator applications was very disappointing and she found it hard to even select a few of the 28 applications submitted. Most of the applicants were unqualified and after the previous discussion from Agenda item **5.3** she feels the need to reevaluate the selection criteria. Mayor Grant stated that it is of the utmost importance that the council strongly and specifically identifies a combination of skill sets they desire for a city administrator based on the formal development of the discussions from Agenda item **5.3**. Council President Gatling asked the Mayor to serve on the committee that will be selecting the city administrator. She asked that he submit in writing via email to her his input for the city administrator by Wednesday, October 7, 2009.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1 City Administrator Position (selection of candidates)

Council President Gatling tabled this item until the activity discussed on Agenda item **5.5** is completed. Council member Ported stated that based on the discussions regarding the city administrator position and the documents to be received on this issue it may be in the best interest of the city to readvertise the position. Council President Gatling stated as soon as the Mayor submits his information Council member Porter's suggestion will be brought before the council for discussion. Mayor Grant asked that the council please add their reason(s) for any disagreements they may have with any portion of his submission on this issue for constructive discussion.

6.2 Use of Council Chambers by Seat Pleasant CDC

Council President Gatling received a PIN from City Clerk Dashaun Lanham to remove the request.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 Public Session, Monday, October 12, 2009 at 7:00p.m., in the Council Chambers

7.2 MML Fall Conference, Thursday, 10/22-10/24/2009, Flintstone, MD

ADJOURN-Councilmember Hardy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Raynor seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kyrthlyn J. Rhoda
Administrative Assistant